

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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P 101140Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN PRIORITY
COMIDEASTFOR
CHIEF LEG AFFAIRS NAVY WASHINGTON DC
DIA WASHINGTON DC

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JIDDA PLEASE PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : CODEL SCOTT MEETING WITH BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SENATOR WILLIAM L. SCOTT AND PARTY MET WITH BAHRAIN'S
FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAIKH MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA, IN
A CORDIAL, SUBSTANTIVE, 45 MINUTE MEETING AUGUST 9. SUBJECTS
COVERED INCLUDED: GULF REGIONAL SECURITY AND POLITICAL OUT-
LOOK, MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, BAHRAINI-U.S. RELATIONSHIPS,
REGIONAL PROBLEMS (SOUTH YEMEN, DHOFAR REBELLION), THE ROLE OF
THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNISTS IN THE REGION, THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE IN THE
U.S., THE APPARENT CONFUSION, IN TERMS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY,
RESULTING THEREFROM AND, FINALLY, A PLEA FROM THE FOREIGN
MINISTER THAT THE USG PLAY A "TRUE MEDIATOR'S" ROLE AS BETWEEN
THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED WITH SENATOR THAT TRADITIONAL
CONCERN FOR FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND THE HIGH SEAS SHOULD BE
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VIGOROUSLY PURSUED, THAT IT WAS IN BOTH U.S. AND BAHRAIN'S

INTEREST TO SEE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL TENSION REDUCED, THAT
COMMON INTERESTS EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. IN SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO SENATOR'S QUERY WHETHER FOREIGN
MINISTER HAD ANY MESSAGE FOR ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
AND MEMBERS, FOREIGN MINISTER URGED THAT MORE CONGRESSMEN
VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE, IN GENERAL, HE FELT THAT THE
CONGRESS DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AS WELL
AS THE EXECUTIVE. SECONDLY, HE PRESSED HIS VIEW THAT "THE
FRIENDS OF THE WEST" IN THE REGION ARE LOOKING FOR SOME FORWARD
MOVEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT ARAB STATES
ARE LOOKING FOR U.S. TO PLAY A ROLE AS "TRUE MEDIATOR" BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND ARABS.

4. SENATOR SCOTT EXPRESSED AMERICAN APPRECIATION FOR LONG-
STANDING BAHRAINI HOSPITALITY TO U.S. NAVY AND ASKED FOREIGN
MINISTER'S VIEWS ON EVOLVING GULF COOPERATION. FOREIGN
MINISTER SAID BAHRAIN CONSIDERED ITSELF "OLDEST FRIEND" OF USG
IN GULF AREA, CHERISHED AMERICAN INTEREST AND SUPPORT AND
WISHED TO SEE U.S.-BAHRAINI RELATIONSHIP STRENGTHENED. TIMES
ARE CHANGING, HOWEVER, AND RELATIONSHIP MUST ADAPT WITH THE
TIMES. HE MENTIONED IMPORTANCE OF BUSINESS CONNECTIONS AND
EARLIER HAD NOTED GOB'S SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY BAHRAINI-
BRITISH RELATIONS HAD EVOLVED SINCE INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID
GULF STATES ARE SERIOUS ABOUT DESIRE TO COOPERATE AND FOREIGN
MINISTERS PLAN TO MEET IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER TO REACH AN
"UNDERSTANDING, NOT NECESSARILY AN AGREEMENT" ON COOPERATION
ON SECURITY MATTERS. BAHRAIN AND OTHERS CONCERNED ABOUT
POTENTIAL FOR SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP IN GULF, USING IRAQI
FACILITIES, AND EAGER TO REDUCE RATHER THAN TO EXPAND THE
PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES IN THE AREA GENERALLY AND
IN THE GULF PARTICULARLY. HE STRESSED GENERAL CONFIDENCE
ABOUT AREA STABILITY INCLUDING PROGRESS OF DHOFAR PROBLEM AND
INDICATED GULF ARABS EAGER TO KEEP SOUTH YEMEN FROM FALLING
FURTHER INTO SOVIET ORBIT AS RESULT OF POSSIBLE GREAT POWER
MILITARY BUILDUP IN THE AREA.
TWINAM

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